

Bipartisan Budget Helps Hoosier Families

Legislators worked together to approve a balanced, bipartisan state budget that provides **increased funding** for our schools and health care services while providing **\$550 million** in property tax relief.

The new state budget that takes effect on July 1 provides almost a **4 percent average increase in state support for public schools** in each of the next two years and increases in state funding for our colleges and universities of more than 4.5 percent during that time. The budget also funds a new life sciences initiative for Indiana University and a new advanced manufacturing program for Purdue University.

The budget also **reduces 2007 property taxes by \$300 million in the form of a refund and also increases homestead credits by \$250 million next year**. In addition, the budget makes sure that the state pays back money owed in delayed payments to universities and local units of government.

The budget contains additional funding for health care for Hoosiers on lower incomes and the CHOICE home health care program. It also funds additional caseworkers for child services and designates more than **\$1 billion for major highway construction projects**.

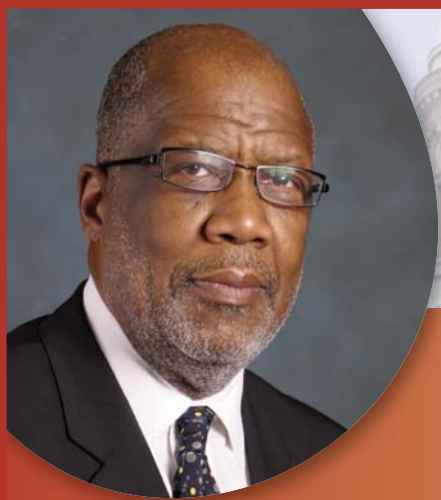
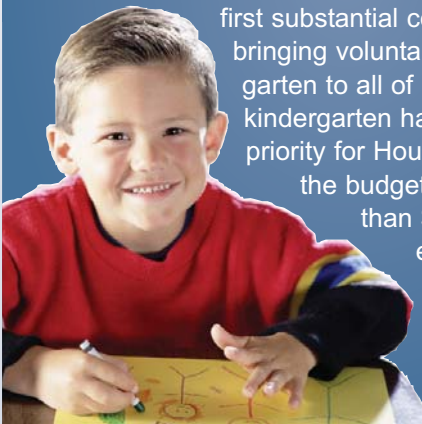
We accomplished all of this while making sure the budget doesn't spend more than it takes in. It is a responsible, balanced budget that will help Hoosier citizens.

Full-Day Kindergarten Receives Funds

Indiana's schoolchildren are big winners with the new state budget approved in the 2007 session.

My number one goal this past session was to restore funding to schools that suffered state funding cuts in the 2005 House Republican budget. I am pleased that House Democrats were able to work with the Senate to boost funding for K-12 education by almost four percent each year of the biennium.

In addition to the significant school formula increases, the new budget contains the first substantial commitment to bringing voluntary full-day kindergarten to all of Indiana. Full-day kindergarten has been a long-time priority for House Democrats, and the budget bill provides more than \$90 million to expand this critical early education program over the next two years.



State Representative
Charlie Brown

☒ **A Balanced Budget**
Schools Receive
Additional Funding



☒ **Property Tax Relief**
Property Owners Will
See Relief For 2007



☒ **Affordable Health Care**
Thousands of Hoosiers
to Receive Coverage



Representative
Charlie Brown

Needs Your Opinion

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2007 Session Report
Helping Hoosier Families

HEALTH CARE FOR HOOSIERS

Indiana Checkup Plan

House Democrats have long fought to make health care coverage available to uninsured Hoosiers and more affordable to working families struggling with ever-rising insurance costs. Through the passage of the Indiana Checkup Plan contained in House Bill 1678, we have taken major steps toward these goals.

Thousands of uninsured Hoosiers will gain access to health coverage through the Indiana Checkup Plan. The components of this plan are funded by an increase in the state's cigarette

tax. Raising this tax will also help convince many to stop smoking and will prevent thousands of youth from starting.

As the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, I am pleased that we were able to expand the Indiana Checkup Plan beyond the Governor's original proposal. Our legislation will also provide tax credits to businesses that begin offering employees health insurance and wellness programs. We were also able to extend health care coverage to thousands of previously uninsured children and expectant mothers.



The Indiana Checkup Plan will:

- Cover up to 132,000 uninsured working Hoosiers
- Expand the CHIP program to cover up to 40,000 more Hoosier children
- Extend health coverage to more than 15,000 expectant mothers
- Provide small businesses tax credits for offering employees weight loss and smoking cessation programs
- Establish tax credits for employers who provide health insurance plans

House Democrats Address High Gas Prices



As gas prices rise above \$3 per gallon, many Hoosiers are seeking relief. Indiana's House Democrats had a plan to provide relief that received bipartisan support in the House, but unfortunately it was not heard in the Senate and did not win backing from the Governor's office. The legislation would have capped the price on which the state sales tax could be charged at approximately \$2.25 per gallon. This would have saved Hoosiers millions in taxes when gas prices spike upward. Indiana is one of only seven states in the country to impose a sales tax on gasoline. I will continue to support ways to reduce or eliminate this unfair burden that falls especially hard on the working families of our state.



Rep. Charlie Brown reviews legislation in the House Chamber.

Females to be Informed of Cancer Risk

A new law, with the goal of providing useful health facts to parents, requires schools to provide information to each parent of a female child entering grade six concerning the link between cervical cancer and the human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and of the availability of an immunization. It is important to provide facts about this vaccine to parents because studies have found the vaccine to be almost 100 percent effective in preventing diseases caused by HPV infection.

The new law requires a written statement to be collected from parents indicating whether each girl has received or will not receive the immunization or if the parent chooses not to provide the information.

The state department of health is required to provide schools with the information on cervical cancer and HPV and to develop the form for the written statement.

A student may not be prohibited from enrolling, attending, or graduating from school for not providing the written statement to the school.



Rep. Brown Supports Property Tax Relief

I have been listening to your concerns about rising local property taxes and was committed to taking action in 2007. Experts are now predicting that the average homeowner's property taxes will increase by more than 20 percent this year.

To help soften the impact of the rising property tax burden, I supported legislation that provides \$550 million in additional property tax relief over the next two years. Homeowners will benefit from \$300 million in increased 2007 Homestead Credits in the form of a rebate sent later this year. In 2008, another \$250 million worth of Homestead Credits will be applied directly to tax bills.

In addition, lawmakers established a more permanent, long-term framework for reducing Indiana local government's reliance on property taxes. Local officials will gain flexibility to both cut property taxes and pay for critical public safety services like police and fire protection.

Another component of property tax-related reform was the creation of county oversight boards to address the rising costs of school and local government construction. These boards will help better control and prioritize capital projects in each community.

I feel confident that in addition to substantial short-term relief, we have made great strides in creating a more fair and equitable tax system that relies less on property taxes.



Rep. Charlie Brown debates property tax relief for Hoosiers.

A Guide to the Property Tax Rebate



- Why a Rebate Check?**
The state will not collect the money earmarked for increased 2007 Homestead Credits until November, so a rebate is the best way to provide homeowners this tax relief.
- Will I Receive a Rebate?**
All homeowners will automatically receive one unless they are delinquent on taxes.
- When Will I Receive the Rebate?**
All eligible taxpayers should receive a check in late 2007 or early 2008. Some homeowners who pay their property taxes through escrow may have their rebate sent directly to their escrow agent or lender.
- Who Will Issue the Rebate?**
The state will transfer the funds for the rebate to your county government, and county officials will calculate your rebate and mail a check.